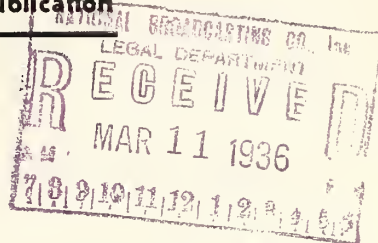


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No. 909

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March 10, 1936

TRANSMISSION OF WRITTEN MESSAGES EFFECTED IN TESTS

Written messages and photographs are being transmitted between New York and Philadelphia in experiments conducted by the Radio Corporation of America under authority of the Federal Communications Commission. Still in an experimental stage, the service eventually may be made available to the public and be broadened to include Washington, Baltimore, and other cities, if it proves commercially feasible.

The transmission is via facsimile radio on the ultra high frequencies of around three meters. While these waves have been used heretofore for two-police communication over short distances, the RCA experiment marks the first application of them to a regular radio-telegraph service.

The New York-Philadelphia circuit is broken by two relay stations, which operate automatically. So far the tests are said to have proved satisfactory, although experiments may continue for several months before an effort is made to commercialize the service.

The transmission of written messages differs from the ordinary tape communication machines familiar to users of even telegraph facilities. It resembles more nearly the teletype equipment of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company in that transmission is by page rather than by printed word. Thus the sender is able to write out a message in long hand on a prescribed sheet of paper, and the receiver copies the message in the original handwriting. The communication, it is pointed out, would be invaluable in identifying signatures for financial transactions.

Transmission of photographs is similar to the radio-telephone transmissions now used by newspapers. The only essential difference is that radio, instead of wires, is the carrier.

Whether the new RCA service will prove commercially feasible will depend upon the outcome of the experiments and on the final determination of the cost of the equipment, now said to be complicated and expensive.

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CBS COMMUNISM BROADCAST DEFENDED ON FLOOR OF HOUSE

Following the broadcast of a talk by Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party in this country, Representative Pierce (D.), of Oregon, took the floor to defend the Columbia Broadcasting System, in the House of Representatives on March 6.

Earlier in the week the CBS had been denounced by Representative McClellan (D.), of Arkansas, and others as well as the Hearst newspapers. Congressman Pierce is a former Governor of Oregon.

"I rise in defense of the Columbia Broadcasting System for granting the use of their magnificent facilities to the leader of the Communist Party to tell his story", he said. "I am in no manner, shape, or form a Communist. The roots of my family go deep into the first settlers and the first families on American shores. I do believe in free speech and the free discussion of public questions. I think one of the worst things that could happen is to have the idea broadcast throughout the world that America is pursuing Russia's method under the Czar of suppressing free speech and the examination and study of various subjects; or pursuing the methods of Hitle, of Germany, or Mussolini, of Italy. This is America."

He then talked at length on his views of Communism, its causes and cure.

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LOBBY PROBES EXAMINE MESSAGES OF RCA IN WASHINGTON

Employees of the Federal Communications Commission, working under the direction of the Senate Lobby Committee, examined and copied many messages transmitted by RCA Communications, Inc., and received at its Washington office during the investigation now under fire, it was learned this week.

The investigators were obviously on a fishing expedition and insisted on seeing copies of all messages, from which they had their own copies made of a few that concerned the utility holding company bill or related topics.

Employees in the Washington telegraph offices had to do the copying for the probers. It was said, however, the investigators were extremely courteous though firm in their demands.

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HEARST EXPANDS RADIO CHAIN TO EIGHT STATIONS

Expansion of the Hearst Radio chain from six to eight stations will be accomplished when the Federal Communications Commission puts its approval upon the purchase of two Texas stations KTSA, San Antonio, and KNOW, Austin, from the Southwest Broadcasting System at a price said to be above \$200,000. The entire move is subject to FCC approval.

Elliott Roosevelt, son of the President, and Vice-President of the Southwest system, secured options on the five stations owned by the group and made possible the Hearst purchases by assigning his options on the two named to Hearst Radio, Inc.

If Hearst buys WMAL, Washington, of which there exists a possibility, this will bring the Hearst radio interests to nine stations, including WCAE, Pittsburgh, WBAL, Baltimore, WINS, New York, KYA, San Francisco, and KEHE, Los Angeles.

The two Texas stations, which the group plans to bring under its management, have the following assignments: KNOW, 1500 kc., 100 w.; KTSA, 550 kc., 5000 w. day, 1000 w. night.

Hearst operates the San Antonio Light, but has no paper in Austin, Texas.

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RCA RADIO COLLECTIONS TURNED OVER TO TWO MUSEUMS

The entire collection of material for a radio museum, gathered by the Radio Corporation of America over the last decade, is being turned over to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago and the Ford Radio Museum in the Edison Institute, Dearborn, Mich.

The RCA exhibit even precedes Marconi, the inventor of radio, as it covers the earlier methods of communication without wires as done by Dolbear, Edison and Loomis before the discovery of the Hertz waves.

The two museums have also almost persuaded the Navy Department to lend its collection of obsolete radio equipment on the same basis as RCA.

Referring to the exhibits now in preparation, the RCA Family Circle said: "When these two displays of radio's progress shall have been set up, and properly labeled, and when RCA's projected series of booklets describing the exhibits as well as the general history of the art is available, the American public will for the first time know 'what it is all about', and doubtless 99.9 per cent of those who view it will learn, for the first time, that radio did not begin when KDKA opened up!"

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RADIO LEADERS AT WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER

There was quite a sprinkling of radio people at the 15th Annual Dinner of the White House Correspondents, given in honor of President Roosevelt in Washington last Saturday night.

There were no speeches except a few facetious words from the President at the conclusion of the dinner who said he was glad that the ice cream course had been omitted otherwise he might have eaten so much that he would have snapped the black buttons off his vest, a sally which the crowd quickly caught.

The entertainment was presented by the National Broadcasting Company, its new President, Major Lenox R. Lohr, attending to this detail personally.

Frank Fay acted as master of ceremonies. Among those who appeared were Gladys Swarthout; Ethel Merman, singer; Jimmie Savo, comedian; Mario Cozzi, operatic baryton; the Westerners, five singers of ranch songs; Rafael, concertina virtuoso; Jemma Hurok, gypsy barytone; Niela Goddelle, pianist and vocalist, and Frank Black, who directed a 37-piece orchestra.

There was comment when a lady member of the Westerners, evidently annoyed at an interruption, stopped her song and said, "If you don't want to hear this, I'll quit", or words to that effect.

Among those present in one way or another identified with the radio industry were:

James W. Baldwin, Managing Director, National Association of Broadcasters; K. H. Berkeley, National Broadcasting Co., Washington; Col. Thad H. Brown, Federal Communications Commissioner; Harry C. Butcher, Vice-President of Columbia Broadcasting System, Washington; Vincent Callahan, assistant to Vice-President, NBC, Washington; Norman S. Case, Federal Communications Commissioner; James Chinn, Radio Editor, Washington Star; Ted Church, CBS, Washington; Martin Codel, publisher, Broadcasting Magazine; Commdr. T. A. M. Craven, Chief Engineer of the Federal Communications Commission; Thomas P. Dowd, Postal Telegraph Co., Washington; Hampson Gary, General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission; J. G. Gude, In Charge of Public Relations, Columbia Broadcasting System, New York; John W. Guider, radio counsel; F. P. Guthrie, R.C.A. Communications, Inc., Washington; R. D. Heintz, Heintz News Service, Washington; E. P. H. James, NBC; G. W. Johnstone, in Charge of Public Relations, Station WOR, New York; Lynne M. Lamm, radio news writer; Maj. Lenox R. Lohr, President, National Broadcasting Co., New York.

Also, Alfred H. Morton, NBC; Herbert L. Pettey, Secretary, FCC; George B. Porter, Assistant General Counsel, FCC; Herluf Provenson, radio counsel; Andrew D. Ring, Assistant Chief Engineer, FCC; John F. Royal, Vice-President, NBC, New York; Frank M. Russell, Vice-President, NBC, Washington; Kurt Sell, German Broadcasting Co.; E. O. Sykes, Federal Communications Commissioner; Sol Taishoff, editor, Broadcasting Magazine; Hon. Burton K. Wheeler, Chairman Interstate Commerce Committee; Frederick William Wile, radio commentator; Frank Wisner, Press Relations Department, FCC.

WARNER BROTHERS FILE 25 MORE COPYRIGHT SUITS

Twenty-five new actions based on the alleged infringement of song copyrights have been filed by the Warner Bros. music publishing firms. Damages sought range from \$250 to \$5,000 each for a single infringement. The twenty-five new suits, which bring the total of actions filed to date to sixty-six, are against the following stations:

WEST (two), WGAL WGST WDRC WLBZ WKBW WHEC WOKO WJAS (two) WESG WGST (two), WORK (two), WEBR KFSO WSJS WDNC WBIG WMBR WDAE WDBO WLAC and KMOX.

Widening the filed of their copyright litigation, Warner Brothers also has filed the first ten suits against prominent New York hotels and night clubs for the alleged infringement of copyrights owned by four Warner Bros. music publishing subsidiaries. The company said that it will continue to bring actions against additional hotels and radio stations which use their songs without license.

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COLUMNIST COMMENTS ON PRALL REAPPOINTMENT

Paul Mallon, Washington correspondent, had this to say in his syndicated column regarding the reappointment of Anning S. Prall, as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission:

"Radio people stiffened when they learned that Mr. Roosevelt had quietly reappointed Anning Prall as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission for another year.

"Chairmanships of such Commissions usually rotate from year to year (Interstate Commerce, Federal Trade). In fact, the chairmanship of this very Commission rotated last year from Judge Sykes to Prall.

"Men behind the mikes did not have to stretch their imaginations very far to explain the departure from custom in this campaign year.

"Mr. Prall is a good Democrat. The next in line for the chairmanship is Norman Case, who is not only a Republican, but a Rhode Island Republican.

"Note - The FCC is the strangest of all Commission. The in-fighting there has been so heavy that two of the Commissioners are not on speaking terms."

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 ::: INDUSTRY NOTES :::
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W. A. Winterbottom, Vice-President and General Manager of R.C.A. Communications, Inc., sailed for Europe on the S.S. "Aquitania" on February 26th, accompanied by Loyd Briggs, European Communications Manager.

Judge A. L. Ashby-Vice-President and General Counsel of the National Broadcasting Company, was recently elected a member of the Executive Council of the American Section of the International Committee on Radio.

David Sernoff, President of the Radio Corporation of America, will talk on "Radio as Force in Crime Control", in the Herald-Tribune Forum over the NBC-WJZ network at 2:30 P.M. EST, Thursday, March 12th.

James A. Emery, General Counsel of the National Association of Manufacturers, will speak over the WABC-CBS network at 10:45 P.M., EST, March 12th, on the Wagner Labor Relations Bill.

The Columbia Broadcasting System has reprinted in pamphlet form a copy of a letter from Harry F. Jones, Advertising Manager of the Campbell Soup Company, to Victor M. Ratner, of CBS, suggesting that a check be made in advance of the efficiency of radio by anticipated sales of a new scotch broth.

"We are so certain that the results are going to be close to the sensational side", the letter stated, "that we believe you can safely suggest to your mailing list that they take the trouble - or have Mrs. Mailing List take the trouble - to check sales in grocery stores where they deal."

Last April laws were passed in Norway to restrict interference with radio reception, and since then 4,100 sources of interference have been investigated and 2,635 motors and other electrical apparatus have been modified to eliminate disturbances.

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FCC ORDERED BY SENATE TO REPORT ON WIRE SEIZURES

Climaxing a series of attacks on the Federal Communications Commission for aiding the Senate Lobby Committee in seizing telegrams in connection with the lobby probe, the Senate on March 9th adopted a resolution ordering the FCC to submit a detailed report on all of its activities in connection with the investigation.

The resolution, introduced by Senator Borah, reads as follows:

"Resolved, That the Federal Communications Commission be, and the same hereby is, requested to report to the Senate all activities of its agents in any inspection or alleged seizure of telegrams and records and telephone communications, or other private communications, to or from any point in the United States; or investigation of forged or destroyed telegrams; and that the Federal Communications Commission inform the Senate by what authority and under what law and at whose direction the action of the Commission was taken."

Senator Borah acted on reports that the Black Committee and the Communications Commission had made "wholesale seizures" of telegrams and telephone records, it being alleged that Committee agents had inspected more than 5,000,000 telegrams. Senator Borah said he did not offer the resolution in any spirit of censure, and added that when the facts were known he might be found among those who approved the action of the Committee.

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NEW JERSEY PREPARES TO BAN RADIO FROM COURTS

Broadcasting of court trials would be prohibited in New Jersey by a bill pending in the Legislature. It is an outgrowth of the trial a year ago at Flemington of Bruno Richard Hauptmann as the Lindbergh baby murderer.

The radio-photograph bill, which is designed to protect the dignity of court proceedings, would bar all such equipment from court rooms, except as a part of the evidence in any case.

"In recent years", declares a statement preceding the body of the bill, "impulses inspired and prompted by commercial instincts and desire for monetary gain have from time to time threatened to impair a proper and efficient administration of our courts despite the quiet dignity, the abounding courage, and the high degree of intelligence of New Jersey judges.

"It is most essential to the proper administration of all the courts of record in this State and especially those dealing with cases where the life of a citizen is at stake that rigid decorum be maintained free from influences which tend to divert the attention and thoughts of persons responsible for the proper functioning of our courts, as well as those involved as jurors, litigants, and witnesses from the fundamental issues and proper and legal evidence relevant thereto."

The bill (S27) introduced by Senator Hendrickson, has been passed by the Senate and is awaiting action by the Assembly, which is expected to concur.

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RADIO TELEGRAPHISTS OPEN FIGHT ON COPELAND MEASURE

Vigorous opposition to the Copeland Bill intended to promote safety of life at sea through revised regulations governing the use of radio was voiced last week by the American Radio Telegraphists' Association.

Through Hoyt S. Haddock, President, the Association attacked the measure (S. 3954) on eight grounds. Labelling it "anti-social" and the work of the ship owners, Haddock charged that the bill:

"Takes away the rights of radio operators to strike.

"Permits the willful revocation of radio officers' licenses by pressure from steamship and radio companies through the Federal Communications Commission, a political body appointed without consideration as to the knowledge of its members regarding communications.

"Endangers the lives of passengers and seamen aboard American vessels by permitting persons other than the masters of such vessels to control radio communications in times of emergency.

"Reverses a basic principle of American law by making a radio officer prove his innocence, instead of the State proving his guilt.

"Allows the Federal Communications Commission to control the radio officer's personal habits and desires.

"Places the radio officer on a twelve-hour minimum day where in most cases he is on an eight-hour minimum at present.

"Permits the use of an auto-alarm, a device purported to receive a distress signal mechanically, despite the fact that use of the device has proved it to be of no practical value.

"Sets up a censorship of free speech and freedom of the press by radio officers and other persons."

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3/10/36

HIGH PRAISE FOR HARBORD'S NEW BOOK

No better war book has thus far appeared than "The American Army in France", by Major Gen. James G. Harbord, U.S.A., Retired, now Chairman of the Board of the Radio Corporation of America, according to Major Gen. David C. Shanks, who, reviewing the publication for the Sunday New York Times of March 8th, wrote:

"At the outset it may be stated that General Harbord's book does not suffer by comparison with any that have preceded it. In many respects Harbord is the best qualified man in our army to tell the story of our participation in the great conflict. Secretary Baker did not overstate the facts when he said: 'There is no soldier in the American Army whose contact with the whole Expeditionary Force was comparable to that of General Harbord.'

"The first duty that confronted General Pershing was to select his staff. Of all staff officers the Chief of Staff is the most important. He is the keystone of the arch. He submits to his chief all matters that demand his attention; he lifts from the shoulders of his chief all business not involving questions of policy. In the absence of the commanding general, the Chief of Staff is his representative and interpreter. Loyalty, ability, judgment, tact and personality are the ingredients of a successful Chief of Staff. I think that those who know General Pershing will agree that one of his greatest assets is sound judgment - especially judgment with reference to men. General Pershing might have chosen for his Chief of Staff almost any officer in our army. He chose Harbord, and he chose wisely.

"Harbord's services in the A.E.F. covered a wider field than fell to the lot of any other officer. His work as Chief of Staff had been outstanding. But, like the true soldier he is, he wanted service on the firing line. General Pershing granted his wish and he was assigned to command of the Marine Brigade, which was one of the infantry brigades of our famed Second Regular Division. . . . It was in the vicinity of Belleau Wood and Vaux that the Second Division made its gallant stand that stopped the German onrush - and saved Paris."

General Shanks concludes:

"I do not know where else our national effort is better set forth than in this book by General Harbord. He is gifted both with facts and with the power of setting down these facts in a pleasing and informative way."

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3/10/36

STORY OF "LUTHERAN HOUR" TOLD IN BOOKLET FROM KFUD

The story of a unique radio program, whose sole purpose is to broadcast the messages of the Christian church over the country, is told in a booklet just issued by the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, which operates KFUD.

"The Lutheran Hour" has its own network, comprising eight stations in addition to KFUD, and is broadcast each Sunday at 1:30 P.M., EST. The other stations are WCAE, Pittsburgh; WLW, Cincinnati; WGAR, Cleveland; CKLW, Detroit; WINS, New York; WJJD, Chicago; KSTP, St. Paul, and KFAB, Lincoln, Nebr. Short-wave Station W8XAL, Cincinnati, also carries the program.

Sponsors of "The Lutheran Hour" pay full station rates for the program and claim "a wider response than any other purely religious program on the air today."

"The Lutheran Hour" has been heard in every State east of the Rockies, the booklet states, and in remote sections of Canada. "Short-wave Station W8XAL, Cincinnati, takes the program to the corners of the earth", it adds.

Dr. Walter Arthur Maier is the principal speaker on the "Lutheran Hour". Rev. H. H. Hohenstein is Director of KFUD.

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WLS RETAINS CST SCHEDULE AS CHICAGO CHANGES

Station WLS, 50,000-watts, Chicago, which serves a huge rural audience, remained on Central Standard Time after Chicago's City Council decreed the city would adopt Eastern Standard Time on March 1st.

A poll of WLS listeners brought in a 65 to 1 vote against the switch in time. Chicago and suburbs alone voted 34 to 1 against the change. The exact figures in the Midwest vote were 65,718 against 1,211 for the change. WLS officials regarded this vote as a mandate from listeners. Weather, temperature, time, news, and above all, market reports services would be disrupted by the change, station executives pointed out.

All other Chicago radio stations are adopting Eastern Standard Time.

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WOR STAFF GIVES DINNER TO NEFF AND ROGOW

The management of WOR, Newark, tendered a dinner on March 5th in the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria for its sales staff and executives to Sales Manager Walter J. Neff and William O. Rogow, senior salesman, both of whom have resigned. The dinner was presided over by Theodore C. Streibert, assistant to the President, and attended by Chief Engineer Poppele, Program Director Seebach, Public Relations Head Johnstone, and the entire sales staff.

In the absence of President Alfred J. McCosker, away on Winter vacation, Mr. Streibert presented attractive desk clocks to Messrs. Neff and Rogow. The sales force gave them desk cigarette humidors.

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REMARKABLE NEW DX AERIAL IS DESIGNED

Heinie Johnson, 1006 S. Barker St., Bloomington, Ill., well known short-wave writer, experimenter and designer of numerous circuits, after two years research, is about ready to spring a remarkable new custom built, tuneable, short-wave antenna, according to Charles Morrison, editor, The Globe Circler, published by the International DXers Alliance, Bloomington, Ill.

Mr. Johnson asserts the antenna will double the volume over most conventional aeralis now in use. An entirely new type of wire has been developed to go with the antenna. This is an aerial designed exclusively for DX work by a pioneer Dx'er. Advance orders will be filled in order received, when the aeralis are ready.

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A Mexican Presidential decree recently established separate tariff classifications for radio antenna, loud speakers and cabinets, without, however, changing the existing rates of import duty, according to a report from Commercial Attache Thomas H. Lockett, Mexico City, to the Commerce Department, Washington, D. C.

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